Charlene Sohm 1653 North Saint John St Russell KS 67665 crsohm@gmail.com 785-483-0670

2-20-2025

Senator Kansas State Capitol 300 SW 10th Ave Topeka, KS 66612

Dear Senator,

I am writing to express my strong support for Kansas Senate Bill 223, which seeks to grant Russell County the authority to implement a countywide retailers' sales tax to fund attendance centers and other school district facilities. This legislation is crucial to ensuring the long-term sustainability and improvement of our local schools, which serve as the foundation for our children's education and the future of our community.

As a resident of Russell County and previous school board member, I have seen firsthand the challenges our schools face due to aging infrastructure and limited financial resources. Investing in our educational facilities is not only necessary for maintaining a safe and conducive learning environment but also essential for attracting and retaining families and teachers in our region. By allowing the county to implement this sales tax, SB 223 provides a fair and practical solution to address these pressing needs without placing an undue burden on property owners alone.

Furthermore, strong schools contribute to the overall economic vitality of our county. Quality educational facilities enhance student performance, support local businesses by attracting skilled workers, and increase property values. Ensuring that our schools are well-funded and well-maintained is an investment in the growth and stability of Russell County.

I urge you and your colleagues in the Kansas Legislature to support SB 223 and help secure the future of education in our community. Thank you for your time and consideration. Please feel free to contact me if you require any further information or wish to discuss this matter in more detail.

Sincerely,

Charlene Sohm 1653 North Saint John St Russell, KS 67665 crsohm@gmail.com 785-483-0670